

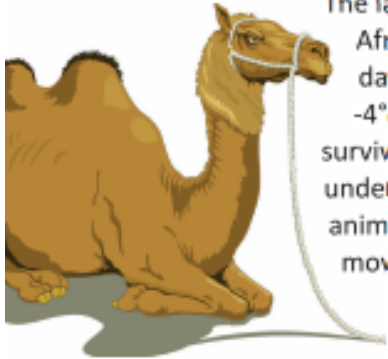
# Animal Homes

Animals have **adapted** to live in all types of **habitats**. Some live in the coldest areas of Antarctica and others live in the hottest deserts of Africa. The only way they can **survive** in these places is by having lots of different types of homes.

## Desert Heat

The largest hot desert on Earth is the Sahara Desert in Africa. Temperatures here are very extreme. In the daytime, it can reach over 40°C but then drop to -4°C at night. Animals that live here have adapted to survive in both. Insects, lizards and small mammals live underground to escape the heat and predators. Larger animals such as cheetahs and camels try to avoid moving too much during the hottest part of the day.

If they can find a tree, they will often shelter in its shadow.



## Underground

Some animals build their homes underground. It is much harder for predators to find them there and they can escape the sun in hot countries. Badgers, foxes, armadillos, mongooses and even some snakes all spend a lot of their time in burrows.



## Treetop Canopy



The top of the tallest trees in the rainforest is called the canopy.

Animals that live here need to be able to cope with the strong wind and bright sunlight. Parrots, sloths, orang-utans, and monkeys have all adapted to live here. It is hard for predators to reach them so high up, but they are at risk from deforestation.

## Life on the Ice

Animals have even adapted to live in the coldest places on Earth. Temperatures can plummet to -60°C on Antarctica and penguins, seals and birds that live there need to keep warm. Penguins and seals use their thick layer of blubber to help. They also huddle together to share their warmth. Quite often, it is warmer in the sea than on land and so some animals spend lots of their time under the ice. In fact, seals sometimes spend most of their day in the water.



## Retrieval Focus

1. List two animals that live in the canopy

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2. How cold can the Sahara Desert get at night?

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3. Which Antarctic animals sometimes spend most of their time in the water?

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4. What is the thick layer of fat called that penguins and seals use to keep warm?

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5. Where might large desert animals shelter?

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### VIPERS QUESTIONS

**E**

Why has the author made some words **bold** in the introduction?

**V**

Choose one of the words in **bold** and write a definition.

**I**

Give one reason why some animals live underground.

**S**

Why is life in the canopy hard for animals?

